Dear Dick,

6/19/75

I write this instead of phoning the suggestion because while I am willing to use my phone when it is necessary and openly enough, as the tapes I'll bring you will show, I also believe in prudence if conditions permit it.

I had McDonald interviewed by an old friend of mine yesterday. He left for NYC yesterday also, with plans for returning to LA Wednesday. He was quite open about the beg deal he has pending with Grove, expects it to go through without a hitch, and general spoke of it as a sure thing.

He could, of course, be taking this extra time for a sort of vacation. But that is not the only possibility.

It is anything but certain that someone is out to hurt Barney Rosset. It likewise is a justified suspicion. I don't think the chance is worth risking. So, I'm proceeding on the presumption of possibility rather than making an judgement. An obvious and I think the only real alternative is rank commercialization.

It occurs to me - and this is the major purpose of my writing you - that Rosset or someone else working for him may ~~xxxxxx~~ want to be in on a discussion I think we should have Sunday night. I think there should be some preparation for the Monday meeting and that if possible it might well be postponed until Tuesday to permit more careful preparations for it. Not to reach a decision on the book, which is a poorly prepared complete fraud, but to permit a better determination of whatever motivates the effort to palm a fraud off on Grove.

Bearing on Grove as an intended target is its selection for a book that was not prepared until last month. A <u>different</u> book than one completed.

If you listen to the conversations I've taped on this (all with permission and the permission on the tapes) as of this early morning it is close to two hours. There may be more.

To give you an idea of the intensive checking I've done, in a full and hard day I've read only 28 pages. As I come to something I can do on checking I do it. I'll have read the entire thing and marked it up by the end of today. Tomorrow I'm going to Washington the get the original book and related papers, which are being xeroxed. I'll have them read and with me when I get there Sunday. I'll be doing some more possible checking in NYC before I go to your home.

From what I know John Starr was McDonald's agent by 3/10/75. How much earlier I have no way of knowing. But the most obvious coincidence is between Johnts becoming the agent and a new ghost and a new and contradictory book. Here I think it might be worth your recalling our common history with John. And once he became my agent all my deals fell apart. I never even got accountings for the second Dell deal that all he had to do was sign. Dell had come to me long before I knew of him. Not only that but we made a deal with them for Oswald in New Orleans and John never got a contract signed. This cost me $35,000. This is not intended as a statement of fact in the form of conclusions but it is intended as a simple statement of certain facts that can be given meaning whether or not the meaning is justified.

I think it not unlikely that the first and completed book was given to John and that he has read it and what was sent me, which is more than (and other than) an outline and contradictory to the first one.

As late as yesterday McDonald was saying he interviewed the alleged assassin in Canada whereas the outline says Spain. Much of this.

Whatever you decide, at the least I think Monday should open in a manner that permits a better guess as to what lies behind this fraud. If you have nobody else there Sunday please think this over before I get there and with all we'll have to discuss let us not forget the approach. Of the top of the head I'd suggest letting them give explanations not in the book and some of the alleged proofs. McDonald is both ways on having a signed confession, for ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ example. Whether or not

there is one is immaterial becauase it has to be a fake. But it is not unreasonable to ask for the proofs promised, it would be normal business foresight to do this, and other Rosset/Grove interests are served by having them. The outline refers to photostats.

McDonald claimed yesterday that Time is not only onto his "story" but sent someone from NYC to LA to interview him last week.

A simple way of handling this is for someone to say that you have had me read this, that I am intrigued by it but recommend that because people can claim there is reference to them in it you require proofs. As I read I noted one such person and he would be likely to sue.

I may have as much as 200 pages with me besides what I was sent.

On the chance of an effort to hurt Rosset I am having further checking done. It probably will not be done by the time I leave Sunday. It includes a former McDonald business partner and possible a brother, a former Catholic priest.

The timing of this version coincides with some official needs. Amateurs pitched in and provided some. Dick Gregory and the self-seekers around him, as the Rockefeller Report makes clear. (I tried unsuccessfully to prevent this, from the first.)

The outline abounds in bait. And CIA and assassinations and the JFK assassination are currently quite topical, as they were prior to 3/10/75.

At the time of the Grove bombing I was certain of CIA involvement, ast I now recall at least through the explosives and the training of those who used them. It coincided not only with the Che Guevara book but also with their distribution of Oswald in New Orleans. However, when I could not then get through to anyone who cared I let this go. I may or may not be able to retrieve that information I then had.

I suggested that you tape the meeting on the ground that you have to give this kind of complicated, technical material more thought. If because this is out of the ordinary you want to address that, one possibility could be for you to say that because you have to give legal advice you want to listen to it all quietly and alone.

Some putons do sell. This is one that can't. Merely publishing it would hurt Rosset and Grove. More than financially.

Hastily,